

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

[c1] An image editing apparatus comprising:

an image input part for inputting an image picked up of a person;

a face image detection part for detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;

an inference part for inferring the attributes of the face image based on the feature amounts in an image area containing the face image detected by the face image detection part;

a determining part for determining the contents of correction process of the face image based on the result of inference by the inference part;

a face image correction part for executing the correction process on the face image according to the contents determined by the determining part; and

an image output part for outputting an image corrected by the face image correction part.

[c2] The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the inference part includes a part for executing the process of inferring at least selected one of the race, age and sex as the attributes.

[c3] The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the face image detection part includes a part for rectifying the result of detection of the face image in response to the rectify operation for the result of detection of the face image.

[c4] The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the inference part includes a part for rectifying the inference result in response to the operation of rectifying the inference result.

[c5] The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the face image correction part includes a part for executing the recorection of the face image after the correction process based on the rectified contents in response to the operation of rectifying the contents of the correction, and

wherein the image output part outputs the latest corrected image at the particular time point in response to the finalize operation.

[c6] The image editing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a registration processing part for registering in a memory the registered information on the feature amounts of the face image detected by the face image detection part in correspondence with the contents of correction process

executed by the face image correction part,

wherein the face image detection part is set to detect, in accordance with the operation of designating predetermined registered information, a face image from the input image by the search process using the feature amounts contained in the designated registered information, and

wherein the face image correction part, upon detection of the face image by the search process, executes the correction process on the detected face image according to the contents of correction process contained in the designated registered information.

[c7] The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the face image detection part detects, upon receipt of an image linked with the information indicating the position of the face image of an object from the image input part, the face image based on the link information.

[c8] The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the image output part includes a part for printing the image after correction.

[c9] The image editing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the image input part includes a part for receiving the image to be processed, transmitted through a computer network, and

wherein the image output part is selected one of a part for printing a corrected image and a part for transmitting, through the computer network, the corrected image to selected one of a transmitter of the image and a destination designated by the transmitter.

[c10] An image editing apparatus comprising:

an image input part for inputting an image picked up of a person;

a face image detection part for detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;

a registration part for holding the registered information including the feature amounts of the face image of each of a predetermined number of objects and the information required for correcting the face image in correspondence with the identification information unique to the object;

an inference part for estimating the object by comparing the feature amounts of the face image detected by the face image detection part with the information registered in the registration part;

a face image correction part for executing the process of correcting the detected face image using the

registered information of the object estimated by the inference part; and

an image output part for outputting the image corrected by the face image correction part.

[c11] The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein the face image detection part includes a part for rectifying the result of detection of the face image in response to the rectify operation for the result of detection of the face image.

[c12] The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein the inference part includes a part for rectifying the inference result in response to the operation of rectifying the inference result.

[c13] The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein the face image correction part includes a part for executing the recorection of the face image after the correction process based on the rectified contents in response to the operation of rectifying the contents of the correction, and

wherein the image output part outputs the latest corrected image at the particular time point in response to the finalize operation.

[c14] The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein the face image detection part detects, upon receipt of an image linked with the information indicating the position of the face image of an object from the image input part, the face image based on the link information.

[c15] The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein the image output part includes a part for printing the image after correction.

[c16] The image editing apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein the image input part includes a part for receiving the image to be processed, transmitted through a computer network, and

wherein the image output part is selected one of a part for printing a corrected image and a part for transmitting, through the computer network, the corrected image to selected one of a transmitter of the image and a destination designated by the transmitter.

[c17] An image editing apparatus comprising:

an image input part for inputting an image picked up of a person;

a face image detection part for detecting a face

image of an object contained in the input image;

an information input part for inputting the information indicating the contents of correction process of the face image of the object;

a face image correction part for executing the process of correcting the face image detected by the face image detection part, in accordance with the contents based on the information input by the information input part; and

an image output part for outputting the image corrected by the face image correction part.

[c18] The image editing apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a registration processing part for registering in a memory the registered information on the feature amounts of the face image detected by the face image detection part in correspondence with the contents of correction process executed by the face image correction part,

wherein the face image detection part is set to detect, in accordance with the operation of designating predetermined registered information, a face image from the input image by the search process using the feature amounts contained in the designated registered information, and

wherein the face image correction part, upon

detection of the face image by the search process, executes the correction process on the detected face image according to the contents of correction process contained in the designated registered information.

[c19] The image editing apparatus according to claim 17,

wherein the face image detection part detects, upon receipt of an image linked with the information indicating the position of the face image of an object from the image input part, the face image based on the link information.

[c20] The image editing apparatus according to claim 17,

wherein the image output part includes a part for printing the image after correction.

[c21] The image editing apparatus according to claim 17,

wherein the image input part includes a part for receiving the image to be processed, transmitted through a computer network, and

wherein the image output part is selected one of a part for printing a corrected image and a part for transmitting, through the computer network, the corrected image to selected one of a transmitter of the image and a destination designated by the transmitter.



[c22] An image editing method comprising the steps of:

inputting an image picked up of a person;

detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;

inferring the attributes of the face image based on the feature amounts in an image area containing the detected face image;

determining the contents of correction process of the face image based on the result of the inference process;

executing the correction process on the face image according to the determined correction contents; and

outputting the corrected face image.

[c23] An image editing method comprising the steps of:

inputting an image picked up of a person;

detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;

estimating an object, out of a predetermined number of objects, contained in the input image by comparing a data base having registered therein the feature amounts of the face image and the information required to correct the face image with the feature amounts of the detected face image;

correcting the face image of the estimated object using the information required for correction registered in the data base; and

outputting the corrected face image.

[c24] An image editing method comprising the steps of:

inputting an image picked up of a person;

detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;

receiving the input of the information indicating the contents of correction process of a face image of the object;

executing the process of correcting the detected face image according to the contents based on the input information; and

outputting the corrected face image.

[c25] A program for a computer to execute the steps of:

inputting an image picked up of a person;

detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;

inferring the attributes of the face image based on the feature amounts in an image area containing the detected face image;

determining the contents of correction process of

the face image based on the result of the inference process;

executing the correction process on the face image according to the determined correction contents; and outputting the corrected face image.

[c26] A program for a computer to execute the steps of:

inputting an image picked up of a person;

detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;

estimating an object, out of a predetermined number of objects, contained in the input image by comparing a data base having registered therein the feature amounts of the face image and the information required to correct the face image with the feature amounts of the detected face image;

correcting the face image of the estimated object using the information required for correction registered in the data base; and

outputting the corrected face image.

[c27] A program for a computer to execute the steps of:

inputting an image picked up of a person;

detecting a face image of an object contained in the input image;

receiving the input of the information indicating the contents of correction process of a face image of the object;

executing the process of correcting the detected face image according to the contents based on the input information; and

outputting the corrected face image.